

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 SIG-01 MMO-01
PM-05 INR-10 CIAE-00 USIA-06 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03
PA-01 A-01 HA-05 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-01 IGA-02
SIL-01 EB-08 ACDA-12 LAB-04 SNM-05 /108 W
-----109916 212146Z /72

R 211937Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9511
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 TEGUCIGALPA 0906

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PEPR, AMGT, ECRP, SNAR, SHUM, HO, US
SUBJECT: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN HONDURAS

REF: (A) STATE 34007, (B) STATE 36411

1. U.S. PRINCIPAL POLICY AIMS IN HONDURAS HAVE BEEN ACCURATELY
DEFINED BY THE "GOALS AND OBJECTIVES" STATEMENT (REF B) AS WELL AS
BY THE RECENT NSC-IG/ARA ENDORSED PARM (77 STATE 290037). BILATERAL
RELATIONS WITH HONDURAS ARE EXCELLENT AND FREE OF MAJOR PROBLEMS.
SEVERAL OF OUR "GOALS" ARE ALSO OF HIGH PRIORITY FOR THE GOH. OTHERS
FIND US SHARING A MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS AND VIEWS. CENTRAL TO OUR
TRADITIONALLY GOOD RELATIONS ARE CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AS WELL AS A GENERALIZED REALIZATION OF
THE DOMINANT POSITION OF THE U.S. IN THE AREA.

2. THESE GOALS REPRESENT THE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF ALL

AGENCIES REPRESENTED AT THIS MISSION. AS NOTED BY 77 STATE 291277,
MANY OF THESE EFFORTS ARE OF A GENERAL AND CONTINUING NATURE. U.S.

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INTERESTS IN HONDURAS ARE PURSUED THROUGH A COMBINATION OF
TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS WHICH, INTER ALIA, CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR
GOALS AND THOSE OF THE GOH.

3. THE FIRST FOUR, OF SIX, MAJOR GOALS DESCRIBED BELOW ARE DIRECTLY
RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS:

I. PROMOTION OF INCREASED GOH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

THE GOH IS AMPLY AWARE OF OUR CONCERN AND INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS. THE GOH HAS REITERATED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THAT IT SHARES THESE IMPORTANT GOALS WITH US ALTHOUGH IT HAS ALSO EXPRESSED SOME IRRITATION THAT THEIR PURSUIT IMPLIES INTERFERENCE IN HONDURAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. AT OUR URGING, THE GOH RATIFIED THE SAN JOSE CONVENTION. ITS RECENT ABSTENTION ON THE MONTEVIDEO OASGA VOTE WAS BECAUSE OF AGREEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE IAHRG WITHIN THE OAS SYSTEM. USG ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF HONDURAS' HUMAN RIGHTS CONDUCT WILL BE FURNISHED BY SUPPORT FOR ECONOMICALLY REALISTIC LOANS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND A CONTINUATION OF OUR AID AND PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS AT ABOUT PRESENT OF SLIGHTLY HIGHER LEVELS. OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THOSE PLANNED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE ALSO DEMONSTRATE OUR CONTINUED INTEREST IN THE COUNTRY AND ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE, BUT DO NOT LOOM UNDULY GIVEN THE LACK OF SIMILAR SIZED PROGRAMS IN OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. OUR PROBLEM IS NOT ONE OF CONVINCING THE GOH. THE EXAMPLE OF HONDURAS' IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS AND THEIR DIFFICULTIES, BOTH INTERNALLY AND WITH THE USG, PROVIDE A STRONG INCENTIVE TO CONTINUE THIS RECORD. THIS SITUATION ARGUES FOR A POLICY OF QUIET DIPLOMACY--REINFORCED BY CONTINUED USIS PRESENTATION OF U.S. WORLD-WIDE HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS AND RATIONALES--AS LONG AS THERE IS NO MAJOR DETERIORATION OF

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THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

II. RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE WITHIN THE GOH GOH TIMETABLE (1979)

THE AMBASSADOR AND APPROPRIATE MISSION OFFICERS WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT, NOT ONLY WITH LEADERS OF THE TWO TRADITIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES

AND THE GOVERNMENT, BUT ALSO WITH THE LEADERS OF OTHER LEGAL POLITICAL

PARTIES, LABOR UNIONS, CAMPESINO GROUPS, BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS AND ALL OTHER RELEVANT GROUPS. OUR INTEREST IN A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE IS WELL-KNOWN, REINFORCED BY THE RECENT VISIT OF ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, AND SHARED BY THE GOH. AT THE SAME TIME, ALL MISSION PERSONNEL WILL BE CAREFUL TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO PARTISAN ACTIVITIES AS THE POLITICAL PARTIES REACTIVATE ELECTORAL MACHINERY AND SPECULATION INCREASES THAT THE USG IS FOR OR AGAINST ANY PARTICULAR CANDIDATE, ESPECIALLY AS GENERAL MELGAR'S PRESUMED CANDIDACY TAKES SHAPE.

III. RESOLUTION OF THE BORDER DISPUTE WITH EL SALVADOR

OUR INTEREST IN THIS GOAL STEMS FROM OUR CONCERN THAT HONDURAS NOT
CREATE A THREAT TO CENTRAL AMERICAN STABILITY, AND THE EFFECT A
NEW OUTBREAK WOULD HAVE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER GOALS.
THE GOH HAS MADE CLEAR THAT THIS IS ITS MOST URGENT EFFORT FOR 1978,
AND DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOW TO BEGIN IN APRIL. THE USG HAS
MADE KNOWN TO BOTH SIDES ITS INTEREST THAT THE ISSUE BE RESOLVED
WHILE TAKING CARE NOT TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS RESOLUTION.
OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, THE EMBASSY HAS URGED CONTINUATION
OF THE OAS OBSERVER MISSION AND ATTEMPTED TO DISCOURAGE ADDITIONAL
ARMS PURCHASES IN A CONTINUING EFFORT TO ASSURE AN APPROPRIATE
ATMOSPHERE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE WILL
CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY ENCOURAGING REGIONAL ECONOMIC
GROWTH, LESSENING THE IMPLUSE TO AN ARMS RACE AND REDUCING THE
BURDEN ON SCARCE RESOURCES. OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL
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CONTINUE TO BE IMPLEMENTED WITHIN A CENTRAL AMERICAN CONTEXT
AND IS PLANNED TO MAINTAIN APPROXIMATELY PRESENT LEVELS. THOUGH
PRECISE EVEN-HANDEDNESS WITH EL SALVADOR IS OBVIOUSLY NOT
FEASIBLE, NEITHER WILL THE DISPARITY IN OUR PROGRAMS BE ALLOWED
TO ASSUME PROPORTIONS WHICH WOULD ENCOURAGE HONDURAS TO
CONCLUDE IT WOULD HAVE OUR SUPPORT IN ANOTHER CONFLICT.

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IV. ENCOURAGEMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

THE GOH HAS CONSISTENTLY SOUGHT U.S. SUPPORT FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. SUCH SUPPORT CONTRIBUTES TO THE GROWTH OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND REINFORCES OUR PURSUIT OF OTHER GOALS. THE GOH CONTINUES TO ARTICULATE NATIONAL POLICIES DIRECTED TO IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF THE COUNTRY'S POOR MAJORITY. NATIONAL RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS SIMILARLY REFLECT THIS COMMITMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT. U.S. ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT GOH PROGRAMS WHICH EMPHASIZE INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY AND EMPLOYMENT AMONG THE RURAL POOR AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE OF LOW-INCOME, AND IN PARTICULAR, RURAL HONDURANS. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE, ADDRESSES OUR BROAD HUMAN RIGHTS INTERESTS AND IS CONGRUENT WITH GOH DEVELOPMENT PLANS. AMONG THE PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY AID DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS ARE CONTINUING ASSISTANCE TO MAKING KEY STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, A SECOND AGRICULTURE SECTOR PROGRAM OF UP TO \$25 MILLION, A LOAN OF \$10 MILLION FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION IN THE AGUAN VALLEY, INCREASED ASSISTANCE

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IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY, A WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT LOAN OF \$5 MILLION, A HEALTH SECTOR PROGRAM AND MODEST ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF RURAL EDUCATION. PEACE CORPS IS EXPECTED TO REACH A STABLE NUMBER OF ABOUT 200 VOLUNTEERS AND WILL CONTINUE A BROAD RANGE OF PROJECTS AIMED AT MEETING SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES OF THE GOH. VOLUNTEERS WILL BE WORKING IN AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES, HEALTH, EDUCATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THROUGH ONGOING AIFLD PROGRAMS AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME LEVELS AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, WE WILL SUPPORT HONDURAS' DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AS ITS LEADERSHIP FACES A RENEWED CHALLENGE FROM COMMUNIST UNIONS. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF LOW LEVELS OF TRAINING AND RESOURCES, THE GOH WILL SUPPORT NARCOTIC INTERDICTION EFFORTS. THE EMBASSY IS ACTIVELY ASSISTING AND ENCOURAGING THE GOH IN THE ADOPTION OF MODERN NARCOTICS LEGISLATION. MISSION EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE TO CENTER ON IMPROVING LOCAL POLICE COOPERATION WITH THE DEA AND TO CHANNEL ASSISTANCE FROM DEA.

V. CONTINUED HONDURAN SUPPORT OF U.S. POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA

HONDURAS HAS GENERALLY SUPPORTED U.S. POSITIONS IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH A COMBINATION OF OUR GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THE RECOGNITION THAT OUR INTERESTS OFTEN COINCIDE OR ARE NOT OPPOSED. COOPERATION WILL BE MAINTAINED BY CLOSE AND CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE PERSONAL

RELATIONSHIP IS BUTTRESSED BY OUR BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT
AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS BY USIS EFFORTS
MAKING OUR POSITION KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC AND OPINION LEADERS.

VI. HONDURAN SUPPORT OF GLOBAL U.S. ECONOMIC POSITIONS

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THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS ENCOURAGING THE GOH TO
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED BY THE MTN; AS WELL AS OTHER

EFFORTS PURSUING SUPPORT FOR U.S. POSITIONS ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC
MATTERS, PRIMARILY THROUGH CONTINUED CLOSE CONTACT WITH APPROPRIATE
GOH OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS ASSURING THAT U.S. VIEWPOINTS THROUGH
USIS REACH THE PRESS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND OPINION MAKERS.

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